

REMARKS

Applicant would like to express his sincere appreciation to the Examiner for suggesting revisions to clarify claims 7 and 14, for reviewing the draft of the proposed revision to claims 7 and 14 which were telefaxed to him and the telephone conference on December 12, 2007. Although no agreement was reached with respect to the allowability of the claims, it is believed that agreement was reached that claims 7 and 14 as presented defined the invention more precisely.

It is believed that with these changes, the claims are clearly distinguishable over and unobvious in view of the teachings of the cited references. Thus, there is no teaching or suggestion in the cited references of the locking lugs having the joint features of (1) being positioned on an axis that extends perpendicularly from the diametrically opposed squeeze pads and (2) having a radially positioned free end that faces the radially extending locking lug of the container.

With respect to the Declaration of Philip J. Robinson under 37 CFR §1.131 it is respectfully submitted that the Declaration effectively eliminates United States Patent Application Publication No. US/2004/022181 A1 as a valid reference with respect to the present application. Thus, it is clear from Mr. Robinson's declaration that he conceived the invention defined in the claims hereof prior to the May 9, 2003, filing date of such reference and that there was diligence by him and his

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associates in reducing the application to practice through the December 9, 2003, filing date of the present application.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of claims 2 – 9, 11 and 14 are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

EMCH, SCHAFFER, SCHAUB
& PORCELLO CO., L.P.A.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. M. Rice", written in a cursive style.

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